

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

22 - 25 AUGUST 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

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25 August 1964

1. South Vietnam: No further public agitation has been reported since Khanh resigned as president and rescinded the 16 August provisional constitution.

The Military Revolutionary Council (MRC) is slated to meet on the morning of the 26th to select a new president and then to dissolve itself, thus withdrawing the armed forces from politics.

A bomb explosion in a Saigon hotel after Khanh's announcement could have been an overt Viet Cong attempt to exploit the tense situation, but we have noted no significant step-up in military activity as yet.

Before the 25 August student and Buddhist demonstrations forced his hand, Khanh told Ambassador Taylor that he feared new religious strife would completely undermine the war effort. He said he was "attracted" by Buddhist demands to get rid of the MRC and that General Khiem had agreed to back his actions if the US concurred.

Events of the past few days have played into the hands of militant Buddhist leader Thich Tri Quang, who our people in Saigon believe is the driving force behind the anti-Khanh campaign.

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Khanh told Taylor that all generals, including "Big" Minh and the four members of his old junta, have been asked to take part in tomorrow's MRC meeting. Khanh seemed to expect that he himself would again be named to be president.

Khanh said that after the MRC was dissolved, the president would appoint his cabinet, key judiciary figures, and a national assembly of about 300. The cabinet would be mainly civilian. He also said that Quang had promised to endorse these actions and would come out publicly against the Viet Cong. Khanh expects some trouble from the Dai Viets but thinks that the party is "manageable."

Minh confided in us that he plans to attend the MRC meeting and that he had been approached by Generals Thiem and Thieu about his willingness to accept the presidency. He added that he would judge the situation at the meeting before committing himself. If he accepted, he said, he would "not want the Americans to go to my subordinates."

2. Cyprus: There is little change in the picture on the island, and the Cyprus problem is far from solution.

Turkish Cypriots claim that Makarios continues to blockade Turkish communities, and Greek Cypriot troops have been moving south of Kokkina. The Turkish Air Force is apparently carrying out air reconnaissance of northwest Cyprus.

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In Turkey, opponents of Inonu's Cyprus policy seem to be gaining strength. He is being criticized by both the political and military opposition for stopping the air strikes. Even some leading members of his own party are charging that the government's policies are "inadequate."

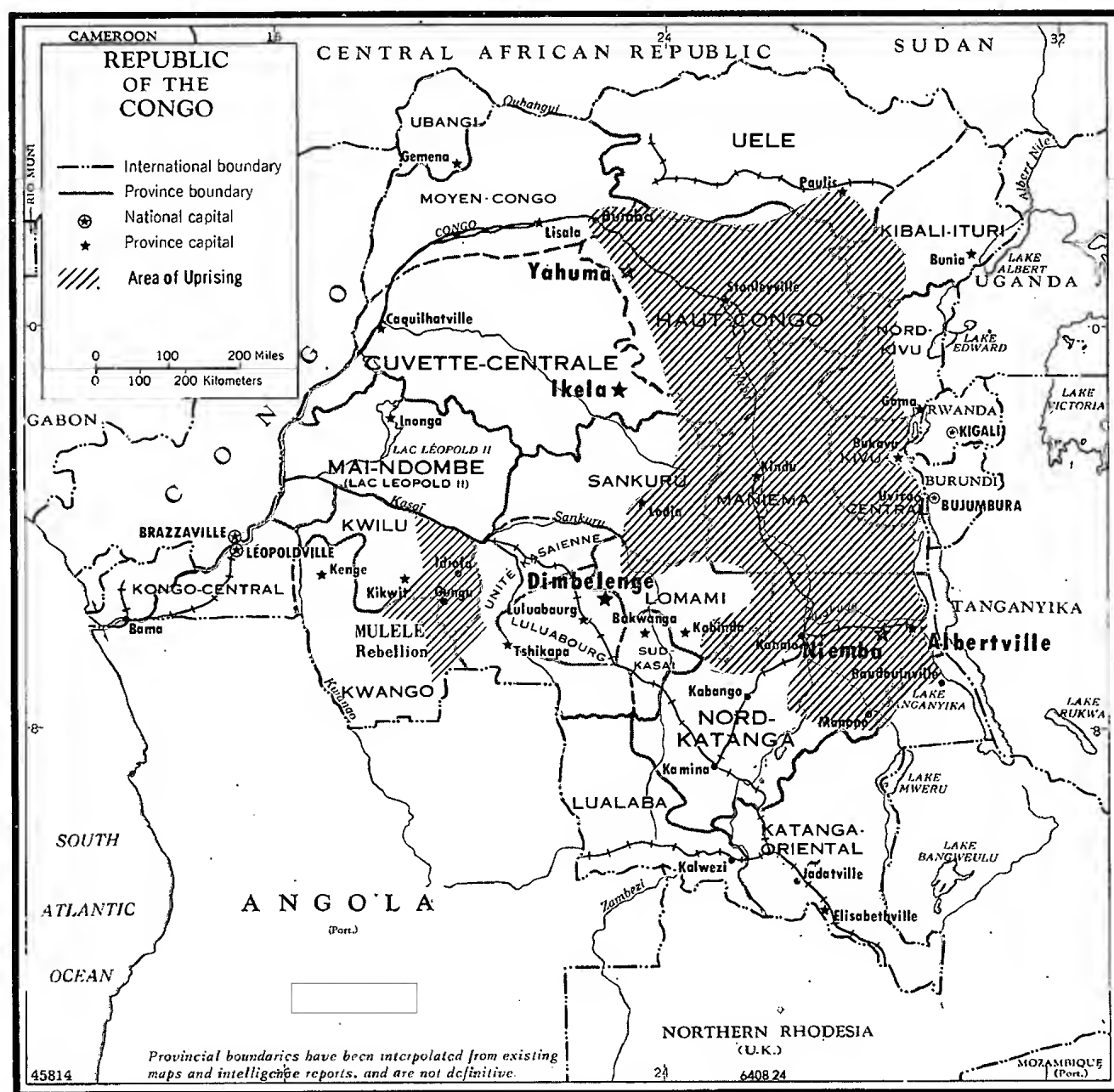
The Turkish military is apparently not plotting a coup, probably because it would rather control the government than overthrow it.

Criticism of Inonu is coupled with anti-American sentiment. He is blamed by some Turks for "tolerating American pressure tactics"; others call American "pressure" a "major diplomatic blunder." Some military leaders have voiced their disillusionment with NATO.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Kyprianou postponed his scheduled trip to Moscow last Friday and went instead to Athens on Monday to confer with Greek officials. Makarios, who has denied that negotiations with the USSR have been suspended, went to Athens yesterday for talks which were described as "decisive" in determining whether Greece and Cyprus will form a common policy or go their separate ways.

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In the past few days, the Soviet ambassador in Nicosia has been seeing Makarios. We think preliminary negotiations for Soviet assistance may be going on there.

Neither the Greeks nor the Turks will go along with the "instant enosis" plan. Athens says it would be unable to impose the proposals on the Cypriots. [REDACTED]

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3. Congo: The rebels have begun their advance downriver from Stanleyville and have already occupied Bumba.

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A government force is moving toward the rebel-held North Katangan capital of Albertville, and a band of mercenaries is attempting to rescue about 60-100 Europeans held by the rebels in the city. The hostages may, however, be massacred before the mercenaries can arrive.

(Cont'd)

Bukavu, still in government hands, is calm. We have reports, however, that rebel forces are moving toward the city from Kindu and Uvira.

Col. Van Der Walle, Tshombé's Belgian military advisor, has returned to Leopoldville after discussions in Brussels.

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Tshombé seems to be backing off from his earlier appeals to other African states for military assistance, which he made over General Mobutu's objections. Our ambassador in Leopoldville is convinced that Kasavubu will not call on the OAU for help.

Tshombé is carrying out his order to expel Brazzaville and Mali nationals, and ill feeling between Brazzaville and Leopoldville is on the rise. Anti-US sentiment is also mounting in Brazzaville where the National Assembly is to meet in emergency session tomorrow. We expect it to issue a strong condemnation of the US and Belgian roles in Leopoldville.

Tutsi refugees in the Congo are said to be moving toward Rwanda. Rwandan President Kayibanda told US officials that he has alerted his troops. A small group of Tutsis tried to invade Rwanda last night but were beaten off.

4. Jordan-Egypt: King Husayn's visit to Cairo last week made him even more suspicious of Nasir.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Egyptians are maintaining steady pressure on Husayn to buy Soviet military equipment with United Arab Command funds.

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Even though he is suspicious, Husayn is likely to acquire some MIG-21 fighters unless he can get comparable aircraft from the US.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Husayn may be trying to get a favorable US answer to his arms request. He may, however, have genuine fears about the effectiveness of Cairo's subversive activities.

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5. Yemen: A shake-up in the regime may be in the offing.

[REDACTED] President Sallal and his right-hand man Vice President al-Amri reportedly will be ousted and replaced by more popular members of the regime. Prime Minister Hamud al-Jaifi is mentioned as Sallal's successor and the new Prime Minister would be tribal council head Ahmad Numan.

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Cairo probably goes along with the idea even though the prospective replacements would probably be less amenable to Egyptian influence than their predecessors. The new men have connections which could be used to beef up the regime's position against the royalists.

6. Zanzibar: More Russians, apparently military advisors and their dependents, arrived in Zanzibar last weekend.



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It is rumored that the island of Pemba is being used by Chinese Communists as a base for arms deliveries to Burundi and the eastern Congo. This is quite possible since Pemba is not particularly well supervised from Zanzibar and was until last May practically a fief of three of Zanzibar's most rabid Communists. Karume visited Pemba last week for the first time since the January coup.

7. Italy: The death of Italian Communist Party leader Togliatti will unquestionably touch off a power struggle in the party hierarchy.

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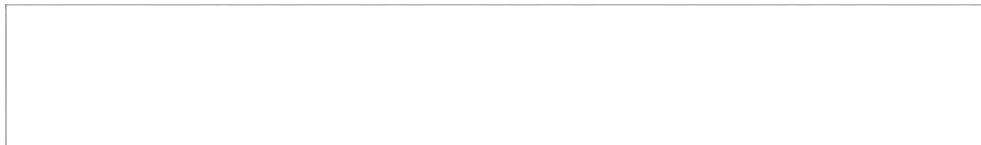
We expect Deputy Secretary Luigi Longo to be named party head tomorrow. We do not think Longo is strong enough to retain control, however, and we look for the real struggle for power to develop after the local elections in November.

As the fight within the party progresses, we expect erratic behavior in party policy.

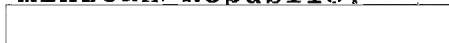
8. Haiti: Duvalier's troops are not having much success in their efforts to wipe out the two rebel groups in the south.

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Regime forces reportedly are suffering substantial casualties. They travel in large groups and are afraid to patrol at night.



Duvalier is also getting increasingly jittery about further incursions from the Dominican Republic.



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9. Cuba



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10. Afghanistan: Twelve Soviet SA-2 surface-to-air missiles showed up at the Independence Day parade in Kabul on 23 August.

The Afghans will not be able to operate the missiles for some time and will continue to rely on AA and MIG jets for air defense. Nevertheless the Pakistani ambassador, who is a retired military officer, was obviously shaken by the display at the parade.

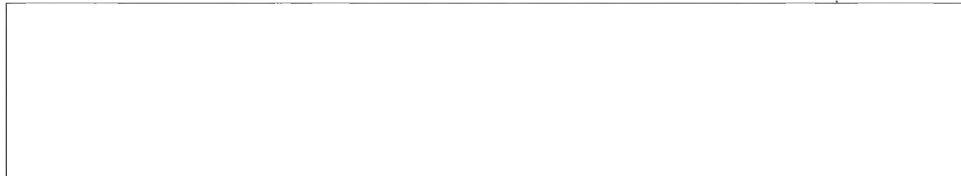
11. India: The Indian Communist Party's "civil disobedience" demonstrations against rising food prices is in full swing and is to continue through next Friday.

The party hopes that its effort will result in a general strike on 7 September, the date for the reopening of Parliament.

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The government can probably control the demonstrations for the most part, but some violent clashes are likely to take place between police and demonstrators.

12. Algeria: Dissidents have now become active in the First Military Region, which includes the Algiers area.



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